

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 99-12-20  
AMENDED**

Date Prepared: December 16, 1999  
For Work Week Commencing: December 20, 1999  
Business Meeting: December 20, 1999, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. L-99.11.11-RUL – Pipeline Safety Rules – Prehearing discussion on annual update to pipeline safety rules (12/21/99)
2. D99.8.176, D99.11.247, D99.12.256 & D99.12.257 - MPC gas case and pass through – Discussion and action on interim orders (12/21/99)
3. D99.12.276 - Midvale Water Service, Inc. to Midvale Water and Sewer District – To review sale and transfer to approve or deny, or grant approval pending filing of financial information and or any complaint to the filing (12/21/99)
4. L99-7-9 – Default supplier rulemaking – Discuss and possibly act on schedule for further rulemaking on selection and requirements of default electricity supplier (12/21/99)
5. D99.2.29 – Montana-Dakota Utility request for interim approval of USBC – Action on MDU's request for interim approval of a USBC charge (12/21/99)

6. N99.12.265, N99.12.266, N99.12.268, N99.12.269, N99.12.270, & N99.12.272 – House Bill 128 – To get Commission approval of tariffs (12/21/99)
7. D99.8.200 – USWC /Quest merger – Discussion and possible action on Motions for Reconsideration and treatment of specially protected “Competitive Information” under Protective Order No. 6199a. Direction to staff on reinstatement of Procedural Schedule (12/21/99)
8. D98.10.224 & D98.10.232 – Motions for Reconsideration of the Hot Springs and Ronan 1+ intraLATA dialing parity orders – To act on the motions (12/21/99)
9. D99.4.111 – Ronan petition for exemption under the 96 Act – to approve an order on reconsideration (12/21/99)
10. Noticing PSC Meetings – To discuss changing policy on noticing meetings after the weekly agendas have been sent (12/21/99)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, LP Docket N99.12.259(Leroy)

On December 2, 1999, Sprint Communications Company, LP filed for changes in its Montana P.S.C. Price List No. 1. The purpose of this filing is to:

Add text to Adjustments for Municipality Payments

Add text to Rate Periods section

Revise Sprint 1000 text

Add text and introduce a new option to Sprint Collegiate Card

Grandfather Residential Toll Free Service

Add Payphone Surcharge text

Introduce Promotional Prepaid FONCARD Service

Introduce Business StandAlone FONCARD

Introduce Sprint Business Flex with All Calls All Day Services

Grandfather Optional FONCARD rate and Toll Free Rate with SCW

Introduce Optional FONCARD Rate and Toll Free Rate with SCW II

Revise Sprint Sense Home Office text and Introduce new options

Decrease Per-Call Payphone Service Charge.

2. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.12.261 (Dave)

On December 3, 1999, US West filed Tariff Transmittal 99-62 to introduce a limited time promotional offering for business customers called, "Small Business Solutions for the Millennium Promotion". The promotional offering includes bill credits, waiver of one-time charges, waiver of one month's recurring charges for qualifying products. The promotion is scheduled to run from December 27, 1999 through March 17, 2000 for Business CustomChoice and from January 4, 2000 through March 17, 2000 for the other products. There is also a non-telecommunications offer included in the promotion. With the purchase of Business Voice Messaging with Caller ID the customer will receive a free Call Waiting ID Box.

3. U S WEST DOCKET NO. N99.12.262 (Eric)

On December 3, 1999, U S WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 99-63, "Residential Additional Line Promotion." The promotional offering is a \$15.00 bill credit per line for customers who subscribe to an additional flat rated residential access line, limited to two additional lines per location. The promotional period proposed is from December 27, 1999, through February 11, 2000.

4. Central Montana Communication, Inc. N99.12.258 (Scott)

On December 2, 1999, Central Montana Communication, Inc (CMC) filed tariff pages to reflect House Bill 128. In this filing CMC zone charges have been eliminated, 1 FR and 1 FB have been reduced by \$0.34 and \$0.31 and a line item credit has been created for residential one-party service of \$0.70, and business one-party and PBX service of \$5.44. CMC has modified this filing to include only the tariff pages dealing with House Bill 128 the remaining tariff changes will be addressed later.

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be

had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Docket N99.12.263 (Leroy)

On December 3, 1999, US West Communications, Inc. filed Tariff Transmittal 99-64 "Cancellation of Service Revisions". The filing is to introduce a consistent method for cancellation of service charges when a customer refuses acceptance of service because they are not ready or the decide to cancel the service order.

2. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, LP Docket N99.12.271(Leroy)

On December 10, 1999, Sprint Communications Company, LP filed for changes to its Montana P.S.C. Price List No. 1. The purpose of the filing is to correct a misspelled word and reduce the Payphone Surcharge rate.

3. Project Telephone Company, N99.12.265 (Scott)

On December 9, 1999, Project Telephone Company filed tariff pages to reflect House Bill 128. In this filing, Project is proposing to reduce residential local rates from \$13.84 to \$13.00 and business local rates from \$35.81 to \$35.00 monthly. Project is also proposing a reduction in intrastate carrier access rates from \$.081 to \$.079 per minute. For a two year period, Project plans to implement a discounted toll rate based on the community of interest between the Project exchanges and Billings EAS region. They are offering a discounted toll rate of \$.06 per minute. These tariffs would become effective January 1, 2000.

4. Valley Telecommunications, Inc, N99.12.266 (Scott)

On December 9, 1999, Valley Telecommunication (VTI) filed tariff pages to reflect House Bill 128. In this filing, VTI is proposing to reduce residential local rates from \$13.84 to \$13.00 and business local rates from \$35.81 to \$35.00 monthly. These tariffs would become effective January 1, 2000.

5. Citizens Telecommunication Company of Montana, N99.12.268 (Scott)

On December 10, 1999, Citizens file a tariff page to reflect House Bill 128. In this filing, Citizen is proposing a 1.949 percent surcredit (negative surcharge) applied to retail telecommunications services, as defined in

MCA Chapter 53. The surcredit will be described on customers' bills as Tax Expense Reduction Surcredit. This tariff page would become effective January 1, 2000.

6. Ronan Telephone Co., N99.12.269 (Scott)

On December 13, 1999, Ronan Telephone Co. filed tariff pages to reflect House Bill 128. In this filing, Ronan is reducing basic local rates by \$0.25 per month. These tariffs would become effective January 1, 2000.

7. Hot Springs Telephone Company, N99.12.270 (Scott)

On December 13, 1999, Hot Springs Telephone Company filed tariff pages to reflect House Bill 128. In this filing, Hot Springs is reducing basic local rates by \$0.50 per month. These tariffs would become effective January 1, 2000.

8. Clark Fork Telecommunications, Inc, N99.12.272 (Scott)

On December 10, 1999, Clark Fork Telecommunications, Inc (CFT) filed tariff pages to reflect House Bill 128. In this filing, CFT is reducing hunting charges to \$2.00 and general business rates would be reduced by \$1.23 per line. These tariffs would become effective January 1, 2000.

9. Midvale Water Service, Docket D99.12.276 (Dave)

On December 15, 1999, Midvale Water Service, Inc. filed a Petition for Transfer of Ownership. Ed Thatcher, President of Midvale Water Service, Inc., has requested that the Commission approve the proposed sale and transfer to Midvale Water and Sewer District. Applicant has requested a January 1, 2000 effective date for the transfer.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**Tentative Action Items for Agenda 00-01-03**

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

- D99.12.264 – USWC – USWC/New Edge interconnection agreement
- N99.12.265 – Valley Telephone – Tariff revisions re: HB 128
- N99.12.266 – Project Telephone – Tariff revisions re: HB 128
- D99.12.267 – MDU – Gas Tracker
- N99.12.268 – Citizens Communications – Tariff revisions re: HB 128
- N99.12.269 – Ronan Telephone – Tariff revisions re: HB 128
- N99.12.270 – Hot Springs Telephone – Tariff revisions re: HB 128
- N99.12.271 – Sprint – Tariff revision: Decrease Payphone surcharge rate
- N99.12.272 – Clark Fork Telecom – HB 128 compliance tariffs
- D99.12.273 – Mountain Water – Application to extend sunset provision in low income discount tariffs
- N99.12.274 – Citizens Communications – Tariff to introduce National Directory Assistance
- N99.12.275 – Central Montana Communications – Tariff filing re: HB 128
- N99.12.276 – Midvale Water Service – Application for sale and transfer